**IMMEDIATE RELEASE EVENT DATE: October 16, 2013**

**“STRAIGHT TALK FOR PARENTS!”**

**Do you know the signs?**

Parents and caregivers of today’s youth have more responsibility than ever before to help kids make good choices. Every child, regardless of their background, is susceptible to the pitfalls of substance abuse.

Educate yourself now on how to identify if a child you care about is exhibiting signs of possible drug or alcohol abuse you may not otherwise be aware of. Getting involved with substance abuse is not just for those students who are considered “at risk”; any young person can be at risk.

Bath salts, K2 and Special K are all recent additions to the list of substances available to our kids. The average age of a child’s first alcoholic drink is now 8-12 and a teenager’s first experiment with marijuana is occurring at age 13. A survey from The Partnership for a Drug-Free America states that 40% of American teens are reporting that they believe prescription medications are safer to use than illicit drugs. Clearly, putting off talking to your kids about substance use until your kids are “old enough” is wasting precious time.

Overwhelmed? Drug Free Pennsylvania can help. Straight Talk for Parents, a free seminar for parents, grandparents and caregivers, provides up-to-date information on the substances that are available to kids, as well as strategies for talking to your kids about staying away from drugs and on the right track. Whether you have preschoolers or new college students, there will be information to help you address the issues now…not later.

Drug Free Pennsylvania will be holding a free seminar for parents in partnership with the Bristol Township School District on Wednesday, October 16, 2013. The seminar will be held at 6:00 PM at the Bristol Township School District Administrative Offices at 6401 Mill Creek Road, Levittown, Pennsylvania.

**Drug Free Pennsylvania**

As the Commonwealth’s premier non-profit organization for substance abuse prevention, Drug Free Pennsylvania offers services, solutions and assistance to businesses, educators, and citizens across Pennsylvania. Offering workplace education and assistance, media literacy programs and resources to educators, as well as programs and services to parents, Drug Free Pennsylvania is working to ensure a healthy and drug-free future for the citizens of Pennsylvania. We are pleased that the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency is providing funding support for this effort.

**Contact Information:**

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We would appreciate your pre-registration for this seminar to assure adequate attendance, but registration is NOT required***.*** Please register through Drug Free Pennsylvania’s website at <http://www.straighttalkforparents.org/news-events/>.